



Program Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC)

October 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes

(Approved by Council, December 14, 2010)

The October 12, 2010 meeting of the IEN Program Resource Advisory Council was held in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the Len B. Jordan Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternate(s) Present:

Teresa Luna, (Vice Chair) Interim Director, Dept. of Administration
John Miller, Dean of Off Campus Instruction, College of Southern Idaho
Jerry Reininger, Director of Information Systems, Meridian School District
Alicia Ritter, Ritter Consulting
Shelly Sayer, Premier Technology Inc. (phone)
Sen. John Goedde, Chairman of Senate Education Committee (VTC)
Sen. Bert Brackett, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Sen. Shawn Keough, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (phone)
Rep. Wendy Jaquet, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (VTC)

Alternate

Mike Caldwell, Idaho Digital Learning Academy (VTC)

Absent Members

Cheryl Charlton, Idaho Digital Learning Academy
Rep. Bob Nonini, Chairman of House of Representatives Education Committee
Rep. Darrell Bolz, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee

Others Present:

Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO
Mike Costa, IEN
Robin Finch, Dept. of Administration
Brady Kraft, IEN
Oliver Landow, ENA
Garry Lough, IEN
Keith Murphy, Qwest

Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co.
Ken Romero, Qwest
Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN
Joel Strickler, Qwest
Mike Vance, ENA
Greg Zickau, OCIO

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Sen. Keough moved and Dr Miller seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2010 as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

IVEN QUARTERLY REPORT

BUDGETED AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

Brady Kraft provided an overview of the IEN budget and expenditures as of September 30, 2010.

Questions and Discussion

- Mr Kraft confirmed for Rep. Jaquet that the Governance line refers to travel and accommodation expenses for the IPRAC and IEN-TAC meetings.
- Responding to Dr Miller, Mr Kraft explained that any unused Albertson Foundation funds could be carried over into FY12.
- Rep. Jaquet queried the future of content funding. Mr Kraft explained that \$250,000 has been budgeted for content and it is anticipated that this will cover 120 to 150 classes which, at the current rate of increasing consumption, should cover about two years. A portion of the Title IID funding is earmarked for content and there are other grants available, so the long term support for content should not come from general operating funds.
- Rep. Jaquet noted that the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee would be meeting on November 15 and suggested requesting space on the agenda for an IEN presentation. Rep. Jaquet went on to express concern about the need for obtaining \$3M from the General Fund in FY13. Mr Kraft assured everyone that additional outside funding was always being sought, this forecast allows for such planning beyond the current year. Rep. Jaquet suggested it would be advantageous to obtain, prior to the next IPRAC meeting, some perspective regarding the financial commitment of Utah and Wyoming to their own education networks and their future planning. Sen. Goedde expressed similar concern about where the \$3M would be found in FY13 and queried whether it was required in order to match grant funds that are already in place. Mr Kraft confirmed that this was not the case.
- Sen. Brackett queried whether the anticipated \$582,308 surplus came from co-mingled funds. Mr Kraft explained that the surplus at the end of six years would be entirely General Fund monies, adding that all the stimulus resources would be spent before using the Albertson Foundation dollars and, in turn, all the Albertson Foundation dollars would be spent before using State-appropriated funds.
- Regarding the \$3M needed in FY13, Supt. Luna commented that he did not believe it should be assumed that the only way to keep the IEN going was to bring in new dollars. Instead, consideration would be given to the spending of money already available. A lot depended on the perception of the IEN, whether it was considered an option or an obligation to ensure students across the state had equal access to opportunities. It is necessary to move beyond the concept that the IEN is new and fun when the reality is that the IEN is the only means of offering students in even the most rural parts of Idaho, access to courses and opportunities that students in urban areas have.
- Sen. Keough queried how the replacement or updating of equipment would be handled. Mr Kraft explained that Phase One, connecting high schools, would be complete around FY12, at which point Phase Two would start which will involve increasing bandwidth and providing VTC equipment for middle schools. At that time, new systems will go to the high schools and the existing high school units will be passed down to the middle schools, upgrades will occur through subsequent phases. The VTC equipment had been chosen very carefully and it was anticipated that the “shelf life” of the VTC equipment would last well beyond three or four years. Even once the warranty expired, the cost of repair or maintenance undertaken by the IEN would be very small. Dr Reininger noted (and Mr Kraft confirmed) that there are more junior and middle schools than high schools so when VTC units are passed down from the high schools the number would have to be increased.
- Dr Miller queried whether other funding would be available in the future. Mr Kraft said he anticipated between \$500K and \$1M of RUS money being available over the coming years. At least half the cost of video infrastructure and VTC equipment would be covered by outside grants, the rest would depend on the perceived value of the IEN and the political will of the State to perpetuate the program.

- Greg Zickau commented that the \$3M being anticipated would be mostly for service. Almost \$2.5M will be needed for telecommunications service that provides the connectivity along with the E-Rate dollars. The VTC portion, actual owned equipment, will be a relatively small portion. It is expected that less than \$500K per year will be needed for capital investment and maintenance of systems.
- Mr Kraft added that VTC equipment represented less than 3% of the budget. With regards to connectivity (which is the majority of the cost), the cost per megabit will decrease as more schools are connected resulting in significant savings and increases in E-Rate dollars. Additionally, of the \$2.5M being spent in the first phase on VTC equipment, two thirds of the cost will be defrayed by Title IID (\$970K) and RUS (\$700K) funds.

CONNECTIVITY UPDATE

Brady Kraft updated the Council noting that there were now 66 schools connected (representing over 21,207 students) and a further 73 schools in progress (46,338 students). There is a delay for some locations while Metro Ethernet is installed, but this delay is worthwhile given that Metro Ethernet will allow for increased bandwidth and result in significant cost savings.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Garry Lough reported that 66 teachers and administrators had received training to date in FY11, 16 completing origination training and 50 completing the proctor training. During the first year of the IEN, 231 administrators and/or teachers had received training and Mr Lough anticipated as many as 600 being trained in this second year. Two credits are received for the origination training, there are no credits for the proctor training.

TESTIMONIALS

Mr Lough referred the Council to testimonial concerning the Grace and North Gem School Districts. There have also been a number of press articles following the recent "Talk Awards" undertaken with the Albertson Foundation.

Questions and Discussion

Rep. Jaquet referred to one of the media articles ["Sugar-Salem turns up the heat on education", Rexburg Standard Journal, September 24, 2010] which quotes students as saying "the courses aren't perfect..." and one student saying they "don't have as many chances to ask questions...". Dr Miller explained that this had been a psychology class with over 40 students from three sites. The students were not accustomed to that size class and they were getting used to the VTC technology and being aware that they have to be a little more assertive. By comparison, the psychology class that CSI ran last year for dual credit had over 60 students at four sites.

OTHER BUSINESS

Teresa Luna reminded the Council of a proposal from a previous meeting about holding IPRAC meetings on a bi-monthly basis, which would allow for a more robust agenda. It was confirmed that the Council is not required by statute to meet on a monthly basis and no concerns were raised.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m. The November meeting is cancelled; the next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2010 at 1:00pm in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the LBJ Building, 650 West State Street.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO